Trade and Agriculture
What's at Stake for Georgia?

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Georgia is an important producer of agricultural and wood products exported worldwide. In fiscal year 2000, the State's cash farm receipts totaled $5 billion. Georgia ranked 17th among all 50 States in 2000 with agricultural exports estimated at $965 million. These exports help boost farm prices and income, while supporting 14,000 jobs both on the farm and off the farm in food processing, storage, and transportation. Exports remain important to Georgia's agricultural and statewide economy. The State's reliance on agricultural exports was 19 percent in 2000.

Georgia's top five agricultural exports in fiscal year 2000 were:

- poultry and products -- $308 million
- cotton -- $158 million
- peanuts and products -- $112 million
- tobacco leaf -- $66 million
- live animals and meat -- $50 million

World demand for these products is increasing, but so is competition among suppliers. If Georgia's farmers, ranchers, and food processors are to compete successfully for the export opportunities of the 21st century, they need *fair trade* and *more open access* to growing global markets.

Georgia Benefits From Trade Agreements

Georgia is already benefitting from a number of agricultural trade agreements. While there is still much to be done, examples of market opportunities for Georgia include:

- As the nation's leading poultry exporter, Georgia benefits under the Uruguay Round agreement because South Korea eliminated its import quotas on frozen chicken (whole and parts) in 1997, and is progressively reducing its tariffs to between 18 and 20 percent by 2004. These market-opening steps supported a rise in U.S. poultry exports to South Korea from 22,000 tons valued at $28 million in 1996 to 83,000 tons valued at $52 million in 2000. The Philippines opened a tariff rate quota for poultry meat of 16,701 tons in 1998, which will reach 23,500 tons by 2004. This arrangement permitted U.S. poultry exports to rise from 2,700 tons valued at $3 million in 1997 to 17,000 tons valued at $14 million in 2000.

  Under the North American Free Trade Agreement, Mexico converted its import licensing regime for chilled and frozen poultry to a transitional tariff rate quota that will be phased out by 2003. From 1993 to 2000, U.S. poultry exports to Mexico rose from 164,000 tons valued at $188 million to 281,000 tons valued at $243 million.

- As a major cotton producer, Georgia benefits under the North American Free Trade

Agreement with rules of origin that increased demand for U.S. textiles in Canada and Mexico. Mexico's 10-percent tariff on cotton will be eliminated by 2003. This tariff reduction supports U.S. cotton exports to Mexico, which rose from 558,000 bales to 1.5 million bales from marketing year 1995 to 2000.

Georgia benefitted under the Uruguay Round agreement because major importers moved to progressively reduce tariffs on tobacco products. The European Union and Japan reduced their tariffs by 2000, and Turkey is reducing its import duties by 2004. Supported by lower tariffs, U.S. total leaf exports to Turkey rose from $60 million in 1995 to $86 million in 2000.

In February 2001, the Protocol on Tobacco Blue Mold was signed with China lifting that country's longstanding ban on leaf imports from the United States. This agreement paves the way for expanded U.S. flue-cured and burley sales to China that the tobacco industry believes could grow to $140 million by 2003/04.

Under the Uruguay Round agreement, Georgia benefits as Japan lowered its tariff on blueberries from 10 to 6 percent. As a result, U.S. exports of fresh wild and cultivated blueberries rose from zero to $6 million in 2000.